



Capitol Construction Bulletin

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SPECIAL ADVISORY

Planned Removal of George Washington and Winged Victory Artifacts from Rotunda to Storage Delayed

The planned removal to storage of the George Washington and Winged Victory artifacts, previously planned to coincide with the set-up of the Idaho Capitol Christmas Tree this next Monday, November 20, has been delayed.

After closer inspection, the George Washington statue will require additional care and preparation before it can be moved from its location on the Second Floor of the Rotunda and into protective and secure storage as part of the Capitol Restoration-Relocation Plan and activity timeline.

In anticipation of the previously announced move date, the glass encasement around the Washington statue was removed late last week.

Upon further scrutiny of the statue, **Ken Swanson**, Idaho Historical Society Special Project Manager, outlined the following concerns which prompted the delay in moving the artifacts:

- The condition of the carved wood (yellow pine) statue is very dry – over 140 years old. The statue itself weighs approximately 400 pounds. Concern is that wood could split from small cracks now visible on the horse.
- The actual supporting platform to which the horse is attached (nails through three hoofs) is not very substantial. Concern is when lifted, the platform will not support the weight of the statue. The platform w/statue attached will need to be glided from the base very carefully.
- On the horse's underbelly, there is an 18-inch wide iron band which apparently provides stability to the center area of the statue. Concern is the strength/viability of the iron band -- forged welding from the 1860's – may not support the even distribution of the weight once lifted/moved. Also, stability of single, 1 X 2" support beam, affixed from the base platform to the bottom of horse, is questionable.
- The statue is tightly located between two columns in the Rotunda. Concern: Difficult to get required lifting equipment in between the two columns, keeping in mind potential damage to adjacent marble façade. Scaffolding is being erected around the statue now so workers can continue assessment and package appropriately for the eventual move.
- Winged Victory statue will be moved at the same time. This gives ISHS workers additional time to package properly as well. A plywood cradle is being constructed that will support the body of the statue in a horizontal position for transport. The wings of the sculpture have also been removed for safe transfer.